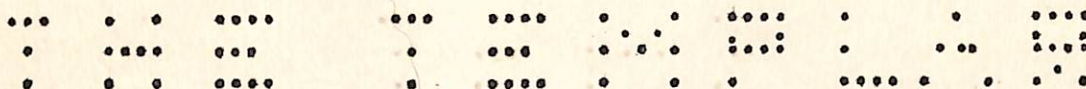


"TEMPLARY IS THE NEW TESTAMENT OF MASONRY"



A FRIENDLY VOICE OF TEMPLAR INTEREST TO KNIGHTS TEMPLAR

Official publication of The Grand Commandery of Knights Templars
and The Appendant Orders of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

ROBERT GARDINER WILSON, JR.
Grand Commander.

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Sir Knights of Massachusetts and Rhode Island:

On Saturday afternoon, January 14, an enthusiastic meeting of representatives from 38 of our fifty-one Commanderies, together with Division Commanders, was held at Aleppo Temple in Boston promptly at 4:00 P.M., following which we enjoyed an excellent Seiler dinner as guests of the Shrine. In Official Order No. 4, dated Jan. 3, I had urged (1) that Parade questionnaire, attached to Official Order No. 3, issued as long ago as Nov. 25, 1949, be forwarded to the Grand Recorder or myself without fail prior to Jan. 14 and (2) that any Commander unable to be personally present at this Jan. 14 meeting should delegate a representative.

The thirty-eight active Commanderies present included representatives from such distances as Providence, Springfield, Pawtucket, Milford, Haverhill, New Bedford, Lawrence, Fitchburg, Pittsfield, Attleboro, Northampton, North Adams, Orange, Gardner, Holyoke and Cranston, R. I. Possibly present activity did not render necessary or advisable the attendance of any representative from the following thirteen Commanderies: Newburyport, Washington, Pilgrim of Lowell, Old Colony of Abington, Conn. Valley, Woonsocket, Godfrey de Bouillon, Narragansett, South Shore of East Weymouth, Trinity of Hudson, Natick, Bay State of Brockton, and Bethlehem of Gloucester.

For the first four months of the current Templar year the following eight Commanderies report no applications: Palestine, Old Colony, Woonsocket, Joseph Warren, Narragansett, South Shore, Athol and Ivanhoe. The following eight Commanderies, - in a comparison of the total number knighted in 1949 by each with the number of applications reported for the first one-third of the current year, shows Sutton with 1 as against 36, Jerusalem 1 against 17, St. Omer 2 against 25, Gethsemane 14 against 66, Olivet 2 against 16, Beauseant 2 against 18, Bethlehem 1 against 24, and Quincy 1 against 11.

Meanwhile, during the same four-month period, the following eight Commanderies have already received more applications than were knighted by each of these Commanderies during the whole of the last Templar year: Pilgrim, Milford, St. Bernard, Hugh de Payens, St. Paul, Cambridge, St. Andrew and Winthrop. Congratulations to these Commanderies and may they surge forward to new records during the closing two-thirds of the year;

YORK RITE NIGHTS continue to prove of inestimable value, both as a Commandery activity and as a most effective method of candidate solicitation. Such nights have already been held by Milford, Sir Galahad, Worcester County, T. S. Webb, St. Johns and Berkshire. Others are already scheduled for Gethsemane Jan. 31, Winslow Lewis Feb. 24, Natick March 28, Quincy March 31, Brockton April 6 and Cambridge on May 12. Commanders eager to assure this feature for their sections should contact the Grand Recorder at once. But the following should be carefully noted: (1) an

early date should be chosen, .. before June, (2) two months are needed for adequate plans, (3) invitation fliers go out in Chapter and Blue Lodge notices, (4) on York Rite Night, individual attendance cards must be available to be signed by each Masonic guest, plus his various affiliations, (5) these cards should then be made promptly available to Membership Committee workers.

MELROSE ON APRIL 1 will be the Mecca for Red Cross and Malta prospects. At this mammoth Joint Conclave, in which all Commanderies are invited to participate, and at which candidates from all over Massachusetts and Rhode Island can be worked, Hugh de Payons No. 20 and De Molay No. 7 will present the Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta respectively, in full form and complete costume, at Memorial Hall, Melrose.

Olivet Commandery is making plans for the Manning Bowl on Sunday, April 30.

SEMI-ANNUAL CONCLAVE will be held on Saturday, May 27.

GRAND COMMANDERY ASCENSION SUNDAY PARADE. With nineteen out of fifty-one Commanderies still to be heard from, I am pleased to report that we now have written responses which are negative in only two cases, while thirty Commanderies assure us 1315 Sir Knights in line, exclusive of bands! Not included are Commanderies number 10, 12, 13, 15, 16, 31, 33, 35, 39, 45 and 53, all of which have given earlier oral assurances they will be in line. No response whatever, written or oral, appears to have been received from Washington No.4, Pilgrim No.9, Woonsocket No.24, Godfrey de Bouillon No.25, Trinity No.32, St. Paul No.40, Bethlehem No.43, or T.S. Webb No. 51.

Present plans now call for this colorful parade of pageantry and Christian banners, to form on the Charles Street side of Boston Common at 2:00 P.M. on Ascension Sunday, May 28, 1950, - the Sunday before Memorial Day Tuesday. To Mechanics Building, a distance of exactly one mile, all on smooth, level, macadam, is an easy walk of less than thirty minutes. Commanderies arriving by train or bus may dress at Mechanics Building, or at the Boston Masonic Temple, and form on the Common, - or if in uniform on arrival can proceed direct to the Common. Following the parade and Templar meeting, preferable departure point would be Mechanics Building. We can accommodate some 5000 Sir Knights, ladies and friends.

At the close of the parade, and as an opening for the services, the colors of every Commandery will assemble together in the centre of Mechanics Hall. As the roll of Commanderies is rapidly called, and each Grand Standard is successively raised, I feel certain each Eminent Commander will guarantee, that among the fifty-one Commanderies in Massachusetts and Rhode Island, the colors of his beloved Commandery will not be missing.

To assure the glorious symbolism of a united Christian Templary throughout Massachusetts and Rhode Island on Ascension Sunday requires at least the presence of the colors of each of our fifty-one Commanderies on the afternoon of May 28th at Mechanics Building. Thirty Commanderies in writing have already assured the presence of their colors, four months from today, with a number of Sir Knights varying in each case from ten to as high as one hundred and fifty. I again urge each and every Commandery to guarantee the presence of its colors, as a minimum, at our Semi-Annual Knights Templar Parade and Observance on May 28th.

In closing, I would state that arrangements are also being made for light buffet refreshments. at Mechanics Building, directly following the meeting, and consisting of salad, rolls, ice cream, cake, milk, coffee and tonic, either at no cost or at a cost not in excess of fifty cents per person for Sir Knights and their guests.

Courteously yours,

Robert Gardiner Wilson Jr.
Grand Commander.

In accordance with an amendment adopted at the last Grand Encampment Triennial Conclave, the Grand Commander is now authorized to grant dispensations to receive petitions and ballot thereon at a special Conclave of the Commandery.

* * *

A Constituent Commandery may now waive jurisdiction over any person who desires to petition another Commandery elsewhere irrespective of Grand Commandery boundaries.

* * *

The altar should be placed in the East during the Prelate's work in The Order of The Temple.

* * *

I like to recall the story of an old man who enjoyed taking long walks. One day he decided he would take a walk to Smithville. He was not sure which road he had to follow. He reached a sign post and was annoyed to see that while one arm pointed to a smooth delightful road, the other pointed up a rough, steep, crooked path marked To Smithville. Suddenly he had a happy thought. He climbed up the sign post, changed the signs around and set forth happily on the smooth road, but he never reached Smithville. All Sir Knights receive a monthly notice which points to the stated conclave of their respective Commanderies. Too often the road seems rough and crooked and many change the sign to a nice easy chair and perhaps a movie or some other activity, and as a result never reach the Masonic Temple to attend the stated conclave of their Commandery. Today, when the world is at the crossroads, we as members of a Christian organization should take an active part and by exemplary lives may in a small way help to bring about a better world condition. Only when the individual organizations and Peace Conferences are willing to embody into their plans the teachings of the Master, can we ever hope to live in a friendly and peaceful world.

* * *

If most of us had as much backbone as we have wishbone we could do more things.

* * *

Of all the things you wear, your expression is the most important.

It is difficult for any man to devote an equal amount of time to all branches of Masonry. Various reasons account for one's choice, but to whichever branch he chooses to devote his time and talents, his devotion to one should not lessen his respect and regard for the other. And this includes the right of every Blue Lodge Brother to make a free choice of his upward course in Masonry without pressure that might tend to discredit the other. There never was greater need than now for Masonry to be united. We should unite to fight Masonry's common enemies, those individuals and organizations who are antagonistic to the teachings and principles of Masonry and who seek to destroy it - and they are making greater inroads than most of us realize.

Advice to Candidates

It is wise, particularly when there are large classes, to have someone talk to these men before they receive the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross. See that each man has met every other member of the class. Impress on them that they should work in order to make their first impressions lasting ones. When the Order is completed, be sure that each Sir Knight in the room greets the new men. This may be effectively done by having the class line up in front of the Eminent Commander facing West with the Sir Knights walking by, grasping the hand of each new member, making him feel really welcome.

* * *

The power of Masonry is like sunlight, quiet, unobtrusive, unobtrusive and unobtrusive. It does its work without bells or blares of trumpets. Too often, in our impatience for results, we forget the silent force of a great fellowship by which men are brought together at an altar of light and friendship, and what such an altar means, in ways too many and hidden to trace in the life of a community.

* * *

The term "Free and Accepted" when applied to Masonry, dates back at least to 1620, and was in common use after 1701. "Free and Accepted" signifies both the operative members who were free of their Guild and the speculative members who were accepted as outsiders.

It Takes Courage

To live according to your convictions.
To be what you are and not pretend to be what you are not.
To say "no" squarely and firmly when those around you say "yes."
To live honestly within your means and not dishonestly upon the means of others.
To refuse to do a thing which is wrong because others do it, or because it is customary and done in trade.
To stay home evenings and try to improve yourself when your comrades spend their evenings having a good time.
To remain in honest poverty while others grow rich by questionable methods which you could easily use yourself.
To refrain from gossip when others about you delight in it, and to stand up for an absent person who is being abused.
But it always pays.

* * *

Most misunderstandings are the result of inadequate knowledge of people and conditions surrounding their attitude and decisions. What is the outstanding secret of Masonry? Surely it is not its grips, its tokens, nor its magic words which pass from mouth to ear; nor is it found completely in the moral laws it teaches, using symbols of high ideals and brotherly duties, turning truths into tools for the shaping of human character.

These are truly vital and of great importance, but unless these things lead to the understanding of one another and the realization that we are each traveling a lonely road leading into the sphere of immortality, we have not caught the significance of our Craft. We are told that if we are ever to accomplish the building of a better civilization it will find its source in world brotherhood. If this be true, and we have no reason to doubt its validity, we must begin by endeavoring to understand each other.

The three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry are aptly called "symbolic degrees." He who is unable to interpret Masonic symbolism needs not to hope for even a fair understanding of the high and noble aims of the Craft. Sympathy and understanding enter into the consciousness of the good man and Mason. Prejudice can find no lodgment in the heart of a real Mason; when we come to understand men in general we find much which is worthy of our approval, and often find that we are

not divided in our sympathies and aspirations. A greater knowledge of the teachings of Masonry will give us a better understanding of our fellow men.

HUGH TWO-COMMANDERY CONCLAVE
to be held on the stage of
Memorial Hall, Melrose, Mass.
April 1st, 1950

A Special Conclave will be held on Saturday afternoon and evening, April 1, 1950 at Memorial Hall, Melrose, where two complete presentations of the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross and the Order of Malta will start at 1:30 P.M. and the second to start at 7:00 P.M.

Hugh de Payens Commandery of Melrose will act jointly with DeMolay Commandery of Boston as Host Commanderies with Hugh de Payens in Full Form and DeMolay Commandery presenting the Order of Malta in Full Form. Both casts will be in full costume and makeup and will be assisted by a Knights Templar Choral Group directed by Franklin Field.

Immediately following the first performance we will form the lines at 5:00 P.M. and led by the full Aleppo Temple Band, march in full regalia along Main Street, Melrose, back to Memorial Hall. This event will be publicized as The Knight Templar Contribution to the celebration of the City's 50th year of Incorporation and its 100th year as a Town. All Commanderies participating in the parade are expected to turn out with their banners and flags and full Templar uniform, including side arms.

A Buffet Dinner by Hicks will be served at the Calvin Coolidge School gymnasium, opposite Memorial Hall, at 5:30 PM following the parade, at \$2. per person. Reservations must be made thru your Commanders in advance. Your ticket and Membership Card will admit you to both halls for registration and dinner.

We can accommodate 2000 people, including the candidates from all Commanderies who will receive the work, 1000 at each performance. The reservations, therefore, must be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

* * *

Masonry does not exist for its own sake, but for the sake of humanity.

COMMANDERIES	PETITIONS 4 MOS.	JAN.
St. Johns	4	18
Boston	22	14
Newburyport	7	-
Washington	1	1
Worcester County	18	5
Springfield	18	2
DeMolay	24	19
Holy Sepulchre	1	2
Pilgrim	21	-
Palestine	-	3
Milford	5	5
St. Bernard	5	1
Calvary	10	3
Haverhill	6	2
Old Colony	-	1
Sutton	1	1
Bethany	3	-
Winslow Lewis	1	-
Jerusalem	1	2
Hugh de Payens	27	14
St. Omer	2	-
Berkshire	4	-
Conn. Valley	1	-
Woonsocket	-	-
God. de Bouillon	2	-
Joseph Warren	-	3
Narragansett	-	1
Bristol	3	1
Northampton	1	-
South Shore	-	1
Trinity	8	-
Natick	-	6
Coeur de Lion	1	1
Gethsemane	14	6
Olivet	2	-
Athol	-	-
Bay State	6	2
Cyprus	1	-
St. Paul	3	-
Beauseant	2	2
Cambridge	5	-
Bethlehem	1	-
Orange	1	-
Ivanhoe	-	-
Quincy	1	-
Temple	6	3
St. Andrew	5	-
Reading	12	-
T.S. Webb	4	1
Sir Galahad	3	2
Winthrop	5	1
TOTAL	268	123

	ACCUMULATIVE			
MONTHS	1950	1949	1948	1947
Sept.	52	53	48	38
Oct.	144	128	129	94
Nov.	185	186	202	152
Dec.	268	276	264	223
Jan.	391	377	328	292
Feb.		477	405	390
Mar.		550	491	477
Apr.		672	565	548
May		727	676	605
June		773	705	656

COMMANDERS:-

At the half way point of this year, we are at the highest figure in PETITIONS than at any similar period for the past 4 years. By plotting previous trends and applying them to the current year, we are coming out at the end of the year with an ALL TIME HIGH.

LEADERS

DE MOLAY	43
HUGH DE PAYENS	41
Boston	36
Worcester	23
St. Johns	22
Pilgrim	21
Springfield	20
Gethsemane	20

HUGH DE PAYENS	11.7
St. Bernard	8.0
De Molay	7.5
Milford	6.8
Pilgrim	6.6
Winthrop	6.3
Temple	6.2
Natick	5.6
Gethsemane	5.6
Reading	5.1
Trinity	4.6
St. Andrew	4.6
Springfield	3.9
Boston	3.8
Worcester	3.7
St. Johns	3.4
Cambridge	3.1
T.S. Webb	3.0
Massachusetts	3.1
Rhode Island	2.0

Courteously yours,
Frank H. Wilson, P.G.C.
Chairman